

Appl. No. : 09/901764
Filed : July 10, 2001

REMARKS

Prior to entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-32 were pending in the application. In reliance upon the indicated allowability of Claims 16-18, 24, 25, and 28-32 in the Office Action mailed on December 29, 2003, Applicants have placed the application in condition for allowance by canceling Claims 1-15, 20-24, 26, and 27 without disclaimer as Applicants intend to file such claims in a continuation application. In addition, Applicants have added Claims 33-44 which each depend from a Claim the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Accordingly, Claims 16-19, 25, and 28-44 remain pending for consideration.

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the indicated allowability of Claims 16-18 and 28-32. In addition, the Examiner indicated that Claims 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 24 and 25 each indirectly depend from Claim 19. Applicants have thus amended Claim 19 to include all of the limitations of Claim 24 and intervening Claims 22 and 23, and have canceled Claims 20-24. Claim 25 has been amended to correct its dependency as a result of the cancellation of Claims 20-24. Finally, the preamble of Claim 16 has been amended without narrowing the scope of the claim, and for reasons not related to patentability.

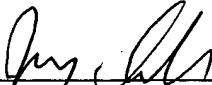
Based on the foregoing, Applicants believe that Claims 16-19, 25, and 28-44 are each in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request the same. Applicants have endeavored to respond to each of the issues raised by the Examiner. However, if there remain any unresolved issues that could be resolved via a telephone conference, Applicants invite the Examiner to initiate the same with Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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